Government and the Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry would now play a proactive role in this matter and decide future course of action after holding a joint consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Government of Assam.

Conversion of saline wasteland in Etawah and Mainpuri

3989. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total project outlay for conversion of Saline Wasteland to Agricultural land in Etawah and Mainpuri of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the source of the projects fueling;

(c) whether it is a fact that the project, as per bird express would affect the habitat of Sarus cranes;

(d) the population of Sarus cranes and percentage of World population; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is reviewing this project in view of a threat referred to in part (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The project for Wasteland Reclamation in Uttar Pradesh has a total financial outlay of US$ 194.1 million (Rupees 932 crores approximately). The project is being funded by the World Bank.

(c) Drainage of wetlands is bound to affect the Sarus crane population.

(d) The estimated population of Sarus cranes in Etawah and Mainpuri districts of Uttar Pradesh is between 1500 and 2000 which constitutes 20-25% of world population of Sarus cranes.

(e) On the basis of the advise of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the State Government has stopped the draining of wetlands under this project.

Financial assistance for FPI

3990. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have povided any financial assistance